



**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** April 2, 2024

**TITLE:** Resolution Authorizing a State Historical Marker at the Las Olas Beach Promenade Entrance to Honor Marathon Swimmer Diana Nyad -  
**(Commission District 2)**

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### **Recommendation**

City Staff recommends that the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing a State Historical Marker at the Las Olas beach promenade entrance to honor marathon swimmer Diana Nyad.

### **Background**

The Florida Historical Marker Program, managed by the Division of Historical Resources, is designed to inform the public about Florida's cultural heritage. It marks significant historical sites and individuals across the state, including churches, schools, archaeological sites, and battlefields.

Diana Nyad is notable for her achievements in swimming. Her accomplishments include:

- Being the first to swim across Lake Ontario from north to south at age 24, taking 18 hours and 20 minutes.
- Setting a new record by swimming around Manhattan Island in 7 hours and 57 minutes in 1975.
- Swimming 102.5 miles from the Bahamas to Jupiter, Florida in 27 hours in 1979.
- Attempting to swim from Cuba to Florida in 1978, a goal she achieved in 2013 after five attempts, becoming the first person to complete the swim without a shark cage in 52 hours and 54 minutes.

Nyad's efforts have earned her a place in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame and her motto, "Never Ever Give Up," has motivated many.

Should the City Commission authorize the placement of the State Historical Marker at the Las Olas beach promenade (Exhibit 1), this action would facilitate the progression of the initiative to install a Historical Marker in honor of Diana Nyad. The placement of the State Historical Marker is contingent upon State and City approvals.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**Strategic Connections**

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Historic Preservation Element
- Goal 2: Provide educational and incentive opportunities to further the City's historic preservation goals.
- Objective HP 2.2: Educational Tools. Educate the public about archaeological and historic preservation programs.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Location Map

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

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Charter Officer: Greg Chavarria, City Manager